



Voice of the Emerging World

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



Workshop on Law & Policy Framework for Restoration of River Ganga

Friday, 12th June 2015

1400 – 1700 hrs

Deputy Chairman Hall, Constitution Club of India

3 Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110 001

India

AN IITC+ INITIATIVE

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and the Oval Observer Foundation in collaboration with PLR Chambers and Luthra & Luthra Law Offices are delighted to invite you to an interactive session to present and discuss the legal and policy approaches that may be adopted to address the rejuvenation and restoration of River Ganga.

BACKGROUND TO IITC+

IITC+ (IITC plus) is a multi-stakeholder group operating under the banner of IITC (Consortium of 7 Indian Institutes of Technology - IITs) that has prepared the Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP). The IITC, led by IIT Kanpur, formed a group to seek best in class inputs from a wide range of Indian and international subject matter experts. With contributions from international experts and bodies, IITC+ has also created an extension in January 2015 known as "IITC+ International". Working groups have been constituted to provide feedback on the plan already developed as well as to provide inputs for

amendments and/or bridging gaps. The Oval Observer Foundation, Luthra & Luthra Law Offices and PLR Chambers are members of IITC+.

LAW & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GANGA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

IIT-C received a mandate from the Government of India in 2010 to develop an action plan for the restoration of the Ganga River Basin. In furtherance of the same, the Consortia has developed the basic framework for the institution that must be created to address multifarious issues involved in the cleaning of Ganga.

The IIT Consortia has developed a structure for the institution in the form of a Bill titled, ***The National River Ganga Basin Management Bill, 2013 (Bill)***. The Bill proposes the establishment of National River Ganga Basin Management Commission (Commission) and National River Ganga Basin Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of matters affecting the River Basin with the objective of restoring the health of the Ganga River Basin.

The Commission envisaged in the Bill will be tasked with the responsibility of maintaining the health of the Ganga River Basin through various policy approaches. To this extent, it has been suggested that the Commission will comprise of the following departments for the efficient discharge of its duties.

- a. Information and Communication Wing
- b. Environmental Monitoring and Impact Assessment Wing
- c. Investigation Wing
- d. Research and Development Wing
- e. Policy, Planning and Advocacy Wing

In addition to the aforementioned departments, the Commission has also been empowered to form regional and specialized units under each of the wings as may be necessary from time to time. Broadly, the Commission's duties and responsibilities include:

- Formulating strategies, plans, and programs for executing the objectives laid down in the Act.
- Strengthening Centre-State Coordination for conservation and development of the Ganga River Basin
- Manage and monitor the work of separate wings formed under the Commission
- Initiate investigations on alleged contraventions of the provisions laid down in the Act and issue orders and directions as it may deem fit.

To ensure a speedy disposition of appeals against the orders issued by the Commission, the Bill also envisages establishment of tribunal, The National River Ganga Basin Tribunal (Tribunal). The Tribunal will be presided by a Chairperson, who shall be an acting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India along with another judicial member and subject matters experts in the field of law, public affairs, environmental matters and science and technology.

The aforementioned structure has been prescribed and designed specifically to address the mission goals identified by IIT-C+ in its report. In this regard, the broad objectives to be executed by the Commission through policy and legal interventions are as follows:

- "Aviral Dhara"- Continuous flow in time and space including maintenance of connectivity of flow in the river systems.
- "Nirmal Dhara"- Un-polluted flow so that the quality of river waters isn't affected significantly by human activities.
- Conservation and restoration of the river basin recognizing that the river is a geological entity and is essential for maintaining the ecological balance between various species that exist and

rely on the basin in order to ensure that the damage caused to basin is not irreversible and irreplaceable.

The workshop is structured so as to address two critical areas:

- Assessing the Efficacy of the Legislative Framework prepared by IIT-C+
- Evaluating the Robustness of Policy Interventions envisaged in the Bill.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

1330 hrs	Registrations
1400 hrs	Welcome Address IIT-Kanpur, Oval Observer Foundation
1410 hrs	The Mission Goals for Restoring the Wholesomeness of the Ganga River Basin Dr. Vinod Tare, IIT-Kanpur Coordinator, Consortium of 7 IITs on Ganga River Basin Management Plan
1450 hrs	The Legislative and Policy Framework for Restoration of the Ganga River Basin Dr. Indrajit Dube, IIT-Kharagpur Legal Expert, Consortium of 7 IITs on Ganga River Basin Management Plan and Author of the National River Ganga Basin Management Bill, 2013
1600 hrs	Open Q&A Moderated by Sanmit Ahuja, Vice Chairman, Oval Observer Foundation
1700 hrs	Release of National River Ganga Basin Management Bill - Vinod Tare, IIT-Kanpur - Indrajit Dube, IIT-Kharagpur - Sanmit Ahuja, Oval Observer Foundation
1710 hrs	High-Tea & Networking Reception

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will be limited to 50 participants from the following stakeholder groups

- Members of IITC, IITC+ and IITC+ (International)
- Supreme Court Judges
- Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India
- Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
- Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India
- National Mission for Conservation of Ganga
- Members of Parliament
- National Green Tribunal
- Law Firms
- Legal Fraternity
- Industry
- Academia
- Diplomatic Community

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop will allow discussion on various ideas and participants are encouraged to present their views on models presented.

ABOUT THE LAW & POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR GRBMP

IITC and IITC+ have formulated a highly comprehensive legal and policy framework for GRBMP that showcases various programmatic and project specific interventions, which will address the conservation and development challenges in the Ganga River Basin.

This workshop will be the first open forum at which the legal framework will be presented. Parties interested in providing further inputs can sign until 13th June 2015. They will be invited to join the IITC+ group, if they are already not enrolled as a member.

URBAN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

IITC and IITC+ will share a number of strategic projects in the Ganga Basin, which will be initiated by the GRBMP. Existing or new IITC+ members can volunteer to participate in the development of these management plans.

REGISTRATIONS

There is no fee for participating in the event, however, prior registration is necessary. Interested individuals may register their participation by sending their personal/organization details to:

Oval Observer Foundation

Rachit Ranjan

E: Rachit.ranjan@ovalobserver.org

M: +91 8826611592

IITC+ Group Coordinators

Ms. Karishma Vohra

E: karishma.iitcplus@gmail.com

M: +91 97115 08996

Mr. Rakesh Mishra

E: rmishraz@gmail.com

M: +91 99358 05656

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Vinod Tare

Professor, IIT Kanpur



Dr Vinod Tare is a Professor of Environmental Engineering and Management at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and holds Sir M Visvesveriah Chair Professor instituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. He is a Civil Engineer, obtained his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Environmental Engineering from IIT Kanpur, and subsequently did post doctoral research at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. Dr Tare has guided numerous masters' and doctoral dissertations. He was the Chairman of the India Water Impact Summit 2013 held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and International Conference on Water – Harvesting, Storage and Conservation (WHSC-2009). Dr Tare is consultant/advisor to many government organizations, NGOs, Industries, and Institutions. He has developed environment-friendly passenger coach toilet system being deployed for Indian Railways, communities, house boats, Kumbh Mela, etc. Dr Tare is presently leading consortia of seven IITs for the preparation of Ganga River Basin Management Plan, which has been submitted to the National Ganga River Basin Authority chaired by the Prime Minister.

Dr. Indrajit Dube

Professor, IIT-Kharagpur



Dr. Dube is presently working as Associate Professor in the Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur. Corporate Laws and Environmental Governance are the areas of specialization of Dr. Indrajit Dube. He has number of books, numerous articles and conference papers to his credit. Dr. Dube has to his credit research projects funded by different Ministries of Government of India, World Bank and other international agencies. Dr. Dube is also an academic member of the European Corporate Governance Institute. He has been serving as the Principal Investigator for the Policy, Law & Governance aspect of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

IIT Kanpur

From its very inception, IIT Kanpur has been striving to develop itself into an institution of excellence in education and research in consonance with the contemporary and future needs of India. In addition to offering formal Undergraduate and Post-graduate Programs, the Institute has been involved in Continuing Education and Research & Development in areas of value to both the Industry and the Government. In a very short span, the Institute has attained recognition as a major center of learning in Engineering, Science and several Inter-disciplinary Areas. IIT Kanpur is already the lead co-ordinating institute for the consortium of seven IITs working on the development of Ganga River Basin Management Plan under National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) on behalf of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

For more information, kindly visit: www.iitk.ac.in

Oval Observer Foundation

Oval Observer Foundation is a strategic engagement and an action platform for economic, social and political issues related to emerging markets and high growth nations. Established in early 2014, the Foundation provides a continuous engagement platform to stakeholders interested in increased growth in emerging economies. In pursuance of its mandate Oval Observer explores sustainability issues in emerging economies, as one of its core thematic research and engagement field. For more information, kindly visit: www.ovalobserver.org

Luthra & Luthra Law Offices

Luthra & Luthra Law Offices is India's leading 'full service' law firm, with offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The Firm has been consistently rated as Tier 1. Our practice areas include Corporate/ M&A; Banking and Finance; Capital Markets; Private Equity and Venture Capital; Infrastructure and Project Finance; Employment; Real Estate; Competition and Antitrust; Intellectual Property; Environmental & Regulatory Law and Tax Law. The Firm was recognized as the 2015 'National Law Firm of the Year' at the IFLR Asia awards, Hong Kong. The Firm was also recently awarded the 'India Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year' at the 11th ALB SE Asia Law Awards 2015, Singapore. For more information, kindly visit: www.luthra.com

PLR Chambers

PLR Chambers is a boutique policy and regulatory law firm with offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. The firm has extensive experience in legislative drafting, framing policy as well as representation before government and regulators at the federal and state level in sectors including IT, telecom, defence, nuclear, public procurement, charities, corporate social responsibility, environmental law, white collar crime. The firm has also been appointed by various departments of the Government of India and multilateral agencies for drafting legislation and has recently received the 'Best Policy and Regulatory Law Firm Award' for 2014 by the IBLJ. For more information on PLR Chambers contact suhaan.mukerji@plrchambers.com and aditya.rao@plrchambers.com